**SHARPENING THE AXE**

**Journeymen, February 26, 2014**

**Session 6: “Spiritual Disciplines: Simplicity”**

**Points of Agreement**

1. Money & Possessions are good Gifts from God
2. Money & Possessions can become idolatrous
3. We are called to exercise stewardship of our finances to please God and further the Kingdom.

Poverty Theology

Prosperity Gospel

Liberation Theology

Stewardship Theology

**Simplicity = Voluntary freedom from earthly**

**treasures to foster contentment in Christ.**

**Matthew 6:19-24**

Proverbs 15:16, 17:1

Psalms 27:16

Ecclesiastes 4:6

Leviticus 25:8-12

### **Simplicity frees us from:**

1. Tyranny of self

* Am I pretending to be an expert where I am only an amateur?
* Do I give the impression of being more godly (or more profane, whichever will give more status in the group) than I truly am?
* Do I try to impress people with my degrees, titles, or honors?

1. Tyranny of things

* Am I living contentedly with my income?
* Am I a compulsive buyer?
* Do I try to impress people with gadgets?

1. Tyranny of people

* Can I allow an unfavorable comment about myself stand, without any need to straighten out the matter?
* In recounting events, do I shift the story ever so slightly to make myself appear in a more favorable light?
* Must I always make excuses for my behavior?
* Can I accept compliments freely without any need to shrug them in self-conscious modesty?

### **Small Group Discussion**

### **Connect**

1. How did your observations go? What did you learn and how will this help you?

**Grow**

1. Which of the points of agreement on stewardship do you emphasize? Why?

1. Out of tyranny of self, people and things; which do you struggle with? How will you practice simplicity in that area?

**Reach**

1. How do you think simplicity will affect your view of other people?